

National Training for  
Counselors and Mentors:  
**Funding Education  
Beyond High School**  
**Fall 2007**



# **Section I**

## **Introduction – Federal Student Aid PSA “My Story”**

# Sneak Preview

- This is a sneak preview of the Federal Student Aid Public Service Announcement (PSA)
- “My Story” campaign launches nationally January 2008
- Federal Student Aid is very excited about it
- The campaign is designed to reach students across America by telling the stories of real students in a very real way

# Background

- Federal Student Aid tested the “My Story” campaign by showing it to students and parents from low-income households
- Feedback was very positive
- Students especially liked that the stories were real and that the messages communicated were barriers they face everyday
- Overall, the messages resonated loudly and clearly

# Where You Will See “My Story”

- The same students and parents also provided great suggestions about how to get the campaign out there in ways that will make it accessible to students and their parents
- This will include posting the videos on MySpace, YouTube, and also using more traditional media such as television, radio, cinema ads, and bus cards

# “My Story” Campaign Goals

- Increase awareness of programs administered by Federal Student Aid
- Promote equal access to the tools and materials that help them make informed decisions about financing post-secondary education

# Where You Fit In

- Need the help of counselors and mentors to make this campaign work
- Later we'll discuss ways to get the word out and get students excited about "My Story"
- You can help Federal Student Aid find future "My Story" stars

# Questions





# What's Next?

- Now that the word is out about federal financial aid, prepare to counsel students
- NT4CM workshop provides:
  - Information
  - Tools
  - Resources

# Workshop Agenda

- Overview of financial aid
- How to apply for federal financial aid
  - FAFSA4caster
  - FAFSA on the Web (FOTW) Worksheet
- Academic Competitiveness Grants (ACG)

# Workshop Agenda

- Searching for scholarships
- State and institutional aid
- Available resources

# Participant Guide

- Relevant handouts for each topic
- Copies of PowerPoint presentations
- Useful resources
  - Additional resources available at [www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov](http://www.fsa4counselors.ed.gov)

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# **Section II**

## **Overview of Financial Aid Programs**

# Financial Aid

Money from a source other than the family to assist with the cost of attending college



# Financial Need

Cost of Attendance

– Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

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= Financial Need

# Cost of Attendance

- Direct costs
- Indirect costs
- COA varies significantly from college to college

# Expected Family Contribution (EFC)

- Amount family can reasonably be expected to contribute
- Stays the same regardless of college
- Two components
  - Parent contribution
  - Student contribution
- Calculated using FAFSA data and a formula specified in law

# Categories of Aid

- Need-based aid
- Non need-based aid

# Types of Aid

- Grants
- Scholarships
- Loans
- Employment

# Sources of Aid

- Federal government
- States
- Colleges
- Private sources

# Title IV Aid Programs

- Federal Pell Grant
- Campus-Based Programs
  - Federal Supplemental Educational Opportunity Grant (SEOG)
  - Federal Work-Study
  - Federal Perkins Loan

# Title IV Aid Programs

- Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP)
- William D. Ford Direct Student Loan Program (DL)



# Title IV Aid Programs

- Leveraging Educational Assistance Program (LEAP)
- Academic Competitiveness Grant (ACG)
- National Science and Mathematics to Retain Talent (SMART) Grant

# Other Federal Aid Programs

- Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship Program
- Corporation for National and Community Service
- U.S. Department for Veteran Affairs
- Reserve Officers Training Corps (ROTC)

# Other Federal Aid Programs

- Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Grants
- Vocational rehabilitation benefits
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)

# Other Sources of Aid

- Institutional or private tuition plans
- Other family resources
- Home equity loans
- Private/alternative loans
- Tuition savings plans (529 plans)
- Employer sponsored tuition plans

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# **Section IIIA**

**FAFSA4caster**


# What is the FAFSA4caster?

- Early start on the financial aid process
- Instantly calculates federal student aid eligibility
- Access FAFSA4caster at [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)



# [www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov](http://www.FederalStudentAid.ed.gov)

## click on FAFSA4caster



START HERE  
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FAFSA4caster Home Student Aid on the Web Students.gov PIN Site Contact Us About Us

A Getting Started

B Using the FAFSA4caster

C What's Next

Special Announcements

[Alert! Important changes that may affect your eligibility for student aid.](#)

Seniors. Ready to fill out the FAFSA?

High school seniors in the last semester of school must fill out a FAFSA to determine eligibility for financial aid.

[Link to FAFSA on the Web](#)

Federal Student Aid  
FAFSA4caster



If you want to begin exploring your financial aid options and get an early start on the financial aid process, FAFSA4caster is for you! By using FAFSA4caster, you and your family will receive an early estimate of eligibility for federal student aid. This Web site provides you with an opportunity to increase your knowledge of the financial aid process; become familiar with the various types of federal student aid that are available; and investigate other sources of aid, such as grants and scholarships.

When you're ready to apply for aid, you can easily transition from FAFSA4caster to *FAFSA on the Web*. Much of the information that you enter in the FAFSA4caster will populate your *FAFSA on the Web* application, making the experience of applying for federal student aid a lot easier.

So help make your future forecast a bright one by planning now for college. Use the FAFSA4caster now!

Site Last Updated: Tuesday, July 3, 2007

English | Español

Getting Started

What is federal student aid? Who qualifies? How do you apply? Get an early start on the financial aid process by learning the basics now. It can be as easy as A-B-C!

[Link to section](#)

Using the FAFSA4caster

[Begin Now](#)

What's Next

What are your next steps? Learn how to transition from FAFSA4caster to *FAFSA on the Web*, follow the financial aid timeline, and perform searches for scholarships and other types of non-federal financial aid.

[Link to section](#)

Scheduled Maintenance:  
FAFSA4caster will be unavailable on every Sunday from 5 a.m. to 11 a.m. (Eastern Time). We apologize for any inconvenience this may cause.

FOIA | Privacy | Security | Notices

WhiteHouse.gov | USA.gov | ED.gov

# Why do we need the FAFSA4caster?

- Help students determine how they are going to pay for college
- Eligibility for aid influences decisions about college
- Financial aid planning process before college applications are due

# FAFSA4caster

Simplifies financial aid process:

- Provides information about college planning, admissions, and federal financial aid
  - Handy timeline of most activities student must complete before applying for college

# FAFSA4caster

Simplifies the financial aid process:

- Describes the Federal Student Aid programs
- Provides aid eligibility requirements
- Provides an overview of the federal financial aid process

# Benefits of the FAFSA4caster

- Provides an estimated Expected Family Contribution (EFC)
- Calculate eligibility for federal aid, including grants
- Reduce time to complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)

# Benefits of the FAFSA4caster

- Match conducted with Social Security Administration
- Automatically generates and e-mails the Federal Student Aid PIN in time to use with *FAFSA on the Web*
- Available in Spanish
- FAFSA4caster is free

# Who should use the FAFSA4caster?

Students who want to get an early start on the application process

- Any student considering their financial options to help pay for a postsecondary education
  - High school juniors
  - Parents of younger students
  - Non-traditional students (adult learners)

# How accurate is the FAFSA4caster?

- Estimate of eligibility based on the current laws and the information the student provides
- Changes in income, household size, or other factors may affect eligibility when student completes the FAFSA



# Filling out a FAFSA4caster

Students will:

- Provide their Social Security Number (SSN) and first and last name exactly as they appear on their Social Security Card
- Create a password
- Refer to their W-2 Forms, bank statements, business, and mortgage information
- Have their alien registration or permanent resident card (if not a U.S. citizen)

# Begin the FAFSA4caster



START HERE  
GO FURTHER  
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FAFSA4caster

Contact Us Live Help

## Filling Out a FAFSA4caster

### Fill Out a FAFSA4caster

Form Approved  
OMB No. 1845-0001  
App. Exp. 06/30/08

To begin a FAFSA4caster, continue working on a saved FAFSA4caster, or retrieve a submitted FAFSA4caster, we need you to provide the information below. You should provide your Social Security Number (SSN) and first and last name exactly as they appear on your Social Security Card. This information will be used to verify your identity with the Social Security Administration (SSA). It is necessary for us to complete this process in order to generate your Federal Student Aid PIN, which you will need when you officially apply for federal student aid. For further information about how your data is used, you can select the Privacy link below.

If you enter your SSN incorrectly on your FAFSA4caster you will not be able to correct it and you will receive a notification that your data did not match with SSA.

**IMPORTANT: Create a password that is easy for you to remember.** Your password is used to secure your data and allow you to retrieve your saved or submitted FAFSA4caster. If you forget your password there is no way to access your data. You will have to begin a new FAFSA4caster. Here are some helpful tips to use when creating your password:

- Make your password 4 to 8 characters long
- Enter the 4 to 8 characters in capital and lower case letters. It's important to remember exactly how you enter the characters. For example, "Student2" is a different password than "student2"
- Enter a password that is easy for you to remember but hard for others to guess. Avoid using personal information such as your first name, last name, or date of birth. Also, avoid using simple passwords such as "1234" or "abcd"

**NOTE:** While using FAFSA4caster, if there is no activity by your keyboard or mouse for 30 minutes your session will expire. If your session expires, all of the information you entered will be saved. You can access your saved FAFSA4caster by returning to this login page and entering the information requested below. Here is where remembering your password is extremely important to retrieve your saved FAFSA4caster.

We estimate that it will take you less than half an hour to complete a FAFSA4caster.

Complete the following questions and select [Next](#).

| FAFSA4caster   |                      |
|--|----------------------|
| <b>The student's Social Security Number:</b><br>Enter the SSN that is printed on the student's Social Security Card. Enter this number without the dashes. For example, 123456789.   | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Reenter the student's Social Security Number:</b><br>Reenter the student's SSN to verify that it is correct.  | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>The student's full last name:</b>   | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>The student's first name:</b>   | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>The student's Date of Birth:</b><br>Please enter this date in "mmddyyyy" format. For example, 08171975 for August 17, 1975.   | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Create a Password (4 to 8 characters; use capital and lower case letters):</b><br>If you forget your password, you cannot retrieve your saved or submitted FAFSA4caster! Note: Customer Service does not have access to your password and will not be able to assist you in retrieving your FAFSA4caster. | <input type="text"/> |
| <b>Reenter the Password:</b>   | <input type="text"/> |

[NEXT](#)

[NEED HELP?](#)

[EXIT](#)

Site Last Updated: Tuesday, July 3, 2007

Privacy



# FAFSA4caster

Students will have to start a new FAFSA4caster if they:

- Forget their password
- Do not retrieve a saved FAFSA4caster within 45 days

# FAFSA4caster

FAFSA4caster gives an estimate of a student's ENTIRE federal student aid package, including eligibility for student loans, by collecting additional data such as:

- Grade level
- Other program specific criteria

# Student is presented with award info.



START HERE  
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FAFSA4caster

Contact Us Live Help

- 1 Info About the Student
- 2 Student Status
- 3 Parents' Info
- 4 Student's Finances
- 5 Review FAFSA4caster
- 6 Submit FAFSA4caster
- 7 Finish

Estimate is based on national averages and your EFC of 1060

**Institution Description: Full Time/Off campus/2-year/Public**

|   | In-state Resident | Out-of-state Resident |
|---|-------------------|-----------------------|
| Average Cost of attendance  | \$20,000          | \$25,000              |
| Your estimated EFC  | \$1,060           | \$1,060               |
| <b>Your Financial Need</b>  | <b>\$18,940</b>   | <b>\$23,940</b>       |
| <b>Schools will attempt to fulfill your financial need through federal and state grants, scholarships, work-study, and loans. Below you will see a list of federal grants and other sources of aid the school may give you. Please note that these amounts are estimates and not a guaranteed amount and that there may be other qualifications you have to meet to obtain these funds. Only your financial aid office can officially award you aid after you complete a FAFSA.</b> |                   |                       |
| <a href="#">Federal Pell grant</a>  | \$2,900           | \$2,900               |
| <a href="#">Academic Competitiveness grant</a>  | \$750             | \$750                 |
| <a href="#">Federal subsidized loan</a>   | \$2,625           | \$2,625               |
| <a href="#">Federal unsubsidized loan</a>   | \$2,665           | \$3,500               |
| <b>Below are examples of other sources of aid with an average amount that you may receive.</b>  |                   |                       |
| <a href="#">Campus Based FSEOG</a>  | \$500             | \$500                 |
| <a href="#">Federal Work-Study</a>  | \$1,000           | \$1,000               |
| <a href="#">Federal Perkins Loan</a>  | \$2,000           | \$2,000               |
| Financial Need  | \$18,940          | \$23,940              |
| Total Estimated Aid   | \$13,440          | \$14,275              |
| <b>Remaining Need*</b>  | <b>\$5,500</b>    | <b>\$9,665</b>        |

\*Your remaining need is only an estimate. Other types of aid can reduce your remaining need. Scholarships for academics, athletics, arts, music, and etc. can reduce your remaining need. You may also qualify for state grants. Schools may also have their own aid that you may be eligible to receive. Visit each school's websites to get specific information.

There are also additional loans that you may apply for. For example, the Federal Plus Loan allows parents to borrow enough money to cover your remaining need.

Remember to begin researching these options early, get detailed information on what you need to do and pay attention to deadlines.

NEED HELP?

VIEW FAFSA4CASTER SUMMARY

EXIT

# Do students still need to complete the FAFSA?

- Yes. They should complete the FAFSA as soon as possible on or after January 1 of the year they attend college.
- Schools use information to determine eligibility for aid and to create award package.
- FAFSA4caster will pre-populate many of the questions on the FAFSA, significantly reducing the time it takes to complete the FAFSA.

# Things to Remember

- No signatures are required to complete and submit a FAFSA4caster
- No SARs or ISIRs generated
- Applicant notified if SSA match fails
- No PIN is needed to access the FAFSA4caster
- Customer Service and built-in help is available



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# **Section IIIB**

## **Applying for Federal Financial Aid**

# FAFSA Completion Resources

- [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- FAFSA Tips Brochure
- FAFSA on the Web Tips Card
- College Goal Sunday

# FAFSA

- Is produced by the U.S. Department of Education
- Collects family's personal and financial information used to calculate student's EFC
- Available in English and Spanish
- Available in three formats:
  - Electronically via FAFSA on the Web
  - Paper FAFSA
  - PDF FAFSA

# FAFSA on the Web



**FAFSA**  
Free Application for Federal Student Aid

[FAFSA Home](#) [Student Aid on the Web](#) [Application Deadlines](#) [PIN Site](#) [Help](#) [Contact Us](#) [FAQs](#) [Site Map](#) [About Us](#)

- Web site: [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)
- 2008-09 FAFSA on the Web available on January 1, 2008
- FAFSA on the Web Worksheet:
  - Used as “pre-application” worksheet
  - Questions follow order of FAFSA on the Web

# FAFSA on the Web

Good reasons to file electronically:

- Built-in edits to help prevent costly errors
- Skip-logic allows student and/or parent to skip unnecessary questions
- More timely submission of original application and any necessary corrections
- More detailed instructions and “help” for common questions
- Ability to check application status on-line
- Simplified renewal application process

# PIN Registration

- Web site:  
[www.pin.ed.gov](http://www.pin.ed.gov)
- Can request PIN before  
January 1, 2008
- Not required, but speeds  
processing
- May be used by  
students and parents  
throughout aid process,  
including subsequent  
school years



# FAFSA on the Web Worksheet

2008-09 FAFSA on the Web Worksheet—  
8-page booklet containing:

- Instructions
- 97 questions in 5 sections
- Worksheets A, B, and C



# Frequent FAFSA Errors

- Parent and student Social Security Numbers
- Divorced/remarried parental information
- Income earned by parents/stepparents
- Untaxed income
- U.S. income taxes paid
- Household size
- Number of household members in college
- Real estate and investment net worth

# FAFSA Processing Results

Central Processing System (CPS) notifies student of FAFSA processing results by:

- Paper Student Aid Report (SAR) if paper FAFSA was filed and student's e-mail address was not provided
- SAR Acknowledgement if filed electronically via FAFSA on the Web and student's e-mail address was not provided

# FAFSA Processing Results

- CPS notifies student of FAFSA processing results by:
  - E-mail notification containing a direct link to student's on-line SAR if student's e-mail was provided on paper or electronic FAFSA
- Student with PIN can view SAR on-line at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

# Making Corrections

If necessary, corrections to FAFSA data may be made by:

- Using FAFSA on the Web ([www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)) if student has a PIN;
- Updating paper SAR (SAR Information Acknowledgement cannot be used to make corrections); or
- Submitting documentation to school's financial aid office

# Special Circumstances

- Can't include on FAFSA
- Contact each college
- College will:
  - Request documentation
  - Review situation on case by case basis
  - Decisions final and cannot be appealed to U.S. Department of Education

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# **Section IV**

## **Academic Competitiveness Grants**



# Background

- One of two new grant programs created by The Higher Education Reconciliation Act of 2005 (HERA)
  - National Science and Mathematics Access to Retain Talent, or SMART, Grants for third and fourth year students
- Encourage students to be academically prepared for college
- Help maintain U.S. competitiveness in global economy

# Award Amounts

- \$750 for first year students
- \$1,300 for second year students

# ACG Eligibility Criteria

- U.S. citizen
- Federal Pell Grant recipient for same award year
- Full time enrollment
- First or second year student in a two or four year degree program
- Completion of a rigorous secondary school program

# ACG Eligibility Criteria: First Year Students

- Not previously enrolled as a degree seeking student in an undergraduate program
- Completed secondary program of study after January 1, 2006

# ACG Eligibility Criteria: Second Year Students

- Completed secondary program of study after January 1, 2005
- Has at least a 3.0 GPA in an eligible program at end of first year of college

# Rigorous Secondary School Program Options

- State designated programs
- Coursework designated by the Secretary
- AP/IB

# State Designated Programs

- An advanced or honors diploma established by a state and in existence for the 2004/05 or 2005/06 school years
- State Scholar's Initiative
- Submitted state recognized plan

# Coursework Designated by the Secretary

- 4 years of English
- 3 years of mathematics (Algebra I and higher)
- 3 years of science (biology, chemistry, physics)
- 3 years of social studies
- 1 year of a foreign language



# AP/IB

Successful completion of at least two courses with a minimum passing test score in those two courses

- Score of at least 3 for Advanced Placement
- Score of at least 4 for International Baccalaureate

# Rigorous Program Options

- All states have at least one designated rigorous program
- Students from every state have at least three ways to meet rigorous program requirement

# Documenting Completion of Rigorous Programs

- Colleges required to collect and retain documentation that a student meets at least one of the options
- Colleges may document the program option that is the most efficient for them
  - Students may eligible under more than one definition of rigorous program

# How Students Apply: FAFSA on the Web

- Submit FAFSA
- If data indicates possible eligibility, prompted to answer questions

# How Students Apply: Paper FAFSA

- Student Aid Report (SAR) indicates possible eligibility
- Instructed to call Federal Student Aid Center at 1-800-4FEDAID (1-800-433-3243) to answer questions about eligibility

# How Students Apply: Self Identification

Self identify to financial aid office at college

- In person or in writing
- Will need to submit documentation

# What Counselors Can Do

- Encourage students to take rigorous courses
- Provide documentation of completion of rigorous program
  - In a timely manner
  - To students or directly to colleges

# What Counselors Can Do

- Let students enrolled in AP or IB classes know how important it is to take the exams
- Tell students about the program



# GPA for Second Year ACG

- For second academic year, student must have a cumulative GPA of at least a 3.0 from first year
- GPA only checked once, at end of first year

# Resources

[www.fsa4schools.ed.gov](http://www.fsa4schools.ed.gov)

- Rigorous high school program codes
- Submit a question feature

# Questions



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# **Section V**

## **Searching for Scholarships**

# Scholarship Sources

- Federal
- State
- Institutional
- Private

# Federal Sources

[www.students.gov](http://www.students.gov)

- U.S. Department of Education (Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarship)
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
- U.S. Armed Forces



# State and Institutional Sources

- Insert URL for state aid agency
- Insert URLs for institutions

# Private Sources

- Foundations
- Community organizations and civic groups
- Religious or ethnicity-based organizations
- Organizations related to student's field
- Local businesses and employers

# Internet Research Tools

# Typical On Line Scholarship Search

- Search using keyword
- Search targeted to student's information
- Use free searches

# Avoiding Financial Aid Fraud

# Warning Signs of Fraud

- Students unaware of free resources
- Students pay for help or “guaranteed” aid before seeking advice from knowledgeable adult

# Common Fraud Complaints

- Paying for guaranteed aid and not receiving anything
- Paying for help to find aid
- Paying to file the FAFSA

# Resources for Avoiding Financial Aid Fraud



# U.S. Department of Education Web Site

- *Looking for Student Aid*
- Student publications page
- Office of the Inspector General hotline

# Federal Trade Commission Site

- Handouts
- Lists of individuals and companies found guilty of fraud
- Complaint form
- Publications to order

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# **Section VII**

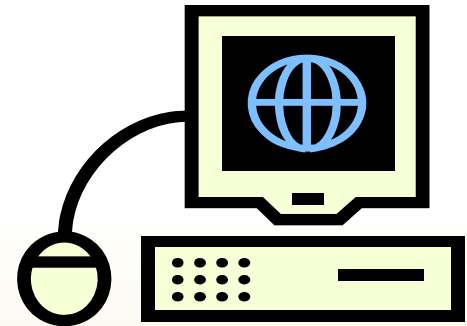
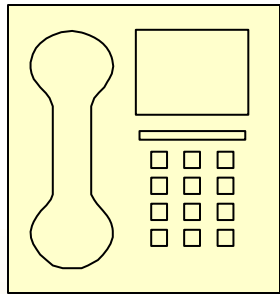
## **Conclusion**

# Conclusion

- Being Involved in the Process
- An Overview of Aid Programs
- Applying for Financial Aid
- Academic Competitiveness Grants
- Searching for Scholarships
- State and Institutional Aid Opportunities
- Next Step – Resources

# Federal Resources

- Print Documents
- Federal Web Sites
- Phone Number



# Miscellaneous Resources

- Review this section for a variety of Web site that contain financial aid resource information for counselors as you assist students and parents
- Features College Goal Sunday, “Ask an Advisor” Training Manual and an English-Spanish Glossary



# Questions



# Thank You

- We know how important you are to students and their families and we thank you for everything you do
- Graduates of NT4CM are now official members of the Network!

# The Network

- A Federal Student Aid driven community of counselors and mentors, access groups and organizations
- The goal of the Network is to help students and their families manage financing post-secondary education

# Members of the Network

- Members are the experts in helping students and their families prepare financially for college
- When students see the Network logo, they will know that they are speaking to an expert – and a trusted source
- Membership in the Network means you are a trusted source

# How the Network Supports You – The Benefits

- Now that different areas of financial aid have joined forces, you will benefit from shared information, full support and combined resources Federal Student Aid, local FAAs and their GA College Access groups
- More programs like NT4CM in the future
- Great source of support and information for each other

# “My Story” PSA

## Get the Word Out

- You’ll be the first to know!
- We’ll keep you informed of developments via email and IFAP postings
- We’ll provide promotional posters and flyers
- “My Story” videos will be posted on the Federal Student Aid Web site for presentation needs
- You’ll receive email alerts when videos are posted on YouTube and MySpace

# “My Story” PSA

## How You Can Get Involved

- Help Federal Student Aid find the future “My Story” stars
- Encourage recent high school graduates to submit their own stories
- Watch for details in your e-mail about this exciting opportunity

# Evaluations

- Your opinion is very important to us
- Please take the time to complete the evaluation form
- We will use your comments and suggestions to improve future training and outreach efforts
- Please return completed evaluation forms to us



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